



# Iowa Department of **REVENUE**

**Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2018**

**Courtney M. Kay-Decker  
Director**

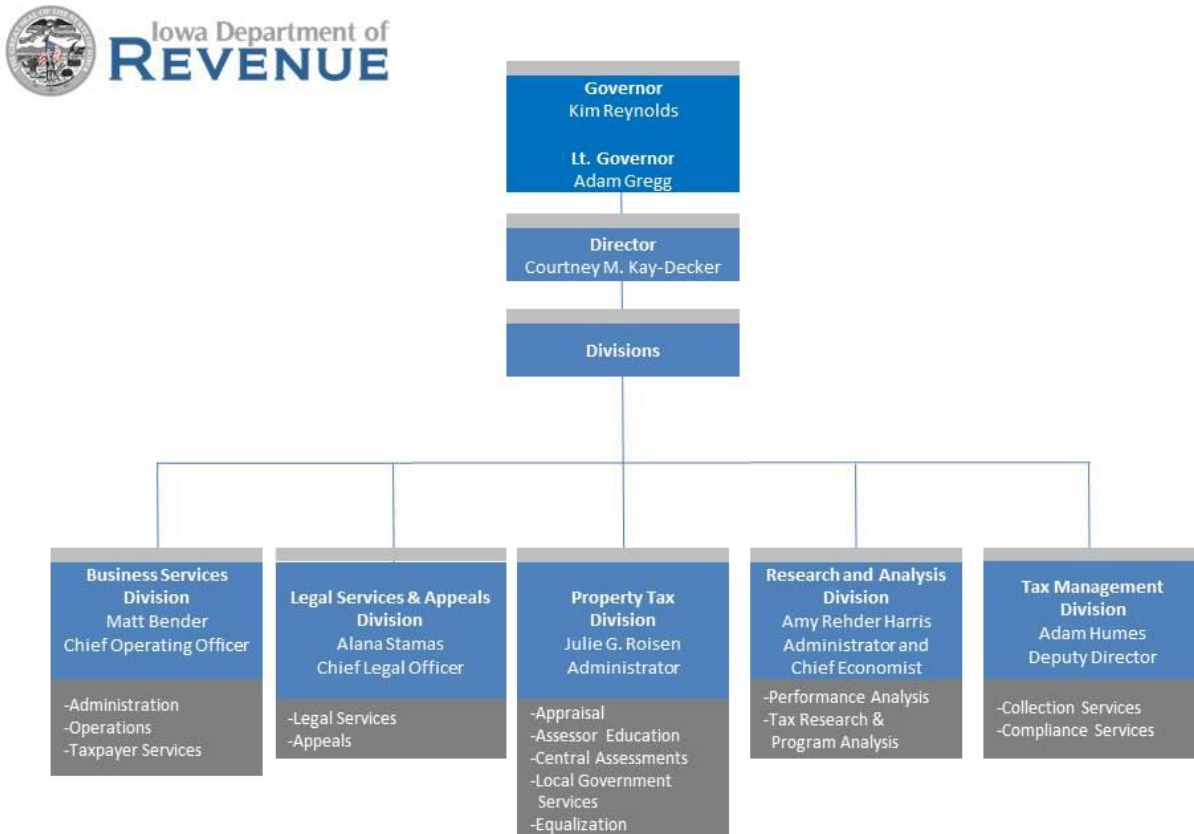


# Iowa Department of **REVENUE**

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## Iowa Department of Revenue Organizational Chart



<https://tax.iowa.gov>

The Department includes one board for budgetary purposes:  
The Property Assessment Appeal Board.

## **Department Mission, Vision, and Goals**

### **MISSION**

The mission of the Iowa Department of Revenue is to serve Iowans and support state government by collecting all taxes required by law, but no more.

### **VISION**

Iowa will be a state where it is easy to understand and comply with tax obligations.

### **GOALS**

The Iowa Department of Revenue has adopted the following goals:

- Provide clear and accurate information
- Deliver customer-focused tax administration

## Department Core Functions

The core functions of the Iowa Department of Revenue consist of the following:

### REVENUE COMPLIANCE AND COLLECTION

The most visible aspect of the Department's operations is the administration of tax compliance and collection. This function includes educating taxpayers on tax law and regulations, processing tax returns and related documents, and collecting taxes and other amounts due. It is in compliance with Iowa's tax laws that the Department conducts its taxpayer examination and audit programs and resolves disputed tax issues.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The Department provides support to local governments by administering just and uniform property assessments across the state. This function also administers programs for property tax relief (including administration of the business property tax credit), local option taxes, school infrastructure taxes, and sales tax increment programs.

### RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Department performs tax policy development and analysis, fiscal impact estimation, and economic and statistical research analysis to help stakeholders understand the impact of Iowa tax laws and make informed decisions.

**Table 1: Taxes and Fees Collected and/or Administered**

Individual Income Tax/Withholding	Sales Tax	Fuel Taxes
Corporation Income Tax	Retailer's Use Tax	Insurance Premium Tax
Franchise Tax	Hotel/Motel Tax	Inheritance Tax
Moneys and Credits Tax	Local Option Sales Tax	Cigarette/Tobacco Tax
Replacement Tax	E911 Surcharge Fee	Hazardous Materials Permit Fee
Property Tax	Insurance Premium Tax	Real Estate Transfer Tax
One-Time Fee for New Vehicle Registration	Car Rental Tax & Vehicle Title Surcharge	Miscellaneous Other Taxes

## TAX COMPLIANCE AND REVENUE COLLECTION

### Fiscal Year 2018 Deposits

During fiscal year 2018, the Department of Revenue processed and deposited over \$10.4 billion into various funds for State and local government operations. The Department also processed and paid \$1.2 billion in refunds to taxpayers, resulting in net deposits of \$9.2 billion.

**Table 2: Gross Deposits, Refunds, and Net Deposits**  
**Fiscal Year 2018**

<b>Taxes</b>	<b>Gross Deposits</b>	<b>Refunds</b>	<b>Net Deposits</b>
<b>Income Taxes</b>			
Individual Income Tax	\$4,889,492,049	\$868,244,971	\$4,021,247,078
Corporation Income Tax	\$566,483,135	\$136,762,176	\$429,720,959
Franchise Tax	\$46,700,865	\$20,686,773	\$26,014,092
<b>Total Income Taxes</b>	<b><u>\$5,502,676,049</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,025,693,920</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,476,982,129</u></b>
<b>Consumption Taxes</b>			
Sales Tax (1)	\$2,794,859,253	\$50,769,308	\$2,744,089,945
Use Tax	\$561,218,499	\$26,324,817	\$534,893,682
One-Time Fee for New Vehicle Registration	\$392,014,305	\$0	\$392,014,305
Fuel Taxes	\$726,940,170	\$77,206,244	\$649,733,926
Cigarette Tax	\$182,378,108	\$508,355	\$181,869,753
Tobacco Tax	\$30,321,088	\$166,436	\$30,154,652
<b>Total Consumption Taxes</b>	<b><u>\$4,687,731,422</u></b>	<b><u>\$154,975,160</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,532,756,262</u></b>
<b>Miscellaneous Taxes</b>			
Environmental Protection Charge (2)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Real Estate Transfer Tax	\$23,668,426	\$0	\$23,668,426
Hazardous Materials Permit Fee	\$272,865	\$0	\$272,865
Inheritance Tax	\$83,088,179	\$2,549,138	\$80,539,041
Insurance Premium Tax	\$121,862,976	\$7,500,245	\$114,362,731
Car Rental Tax and Vehicle Title Surcharge (3)	\$87,150	\$0	\$87,150
Miscellaneous Taxes (4)	\$2,974,708	\$5,021,694	-\$2,046,986
<b>Total Miscellaneous Taxes</b>	<b><u>\$231,954,304</u></b>	<b><u>\$15,071,077</u></b>	<b><u>\$216,883,227</u></b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b><u>\$10,422,361,775</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,195,740,157</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,226,621,617</u></b>

Notes: Gross deposits do not reflect any transfers or adjustments for returned checks. Deposits and refunds are presented on a cash basis.

(1) Gross deposits include approximately \$376.8 million in LOST and Hotel/Motel tax collections.

(2) The Environmental Protection Charge sunset December 31, 2016.

(3) Gross deposits include a 5% tax on car rentals and a \$5.00 registration fee collected by County Recorders for snowmobiles, ATVs, and boat registrations.

(4) Refunds under Miscellaneous Taxes consist mainly of reissued warrants. These warrants can be issued for any tax type and could include refunds from any time within the last five years. They are cancelled in the refund accounts for the original tax type before being issued under Miscellaneous. Therefore, total Miscellaneous refunds for a fiscal year often exceed Miscellaneous Taxes receipts.

## TAX COMPLIANCE AND REVENUE COLLECTION

### Historic Gross Deposits

Gross deposits increased 3.4 percent in fiscal year 2018, up from the 2.0 percent growth seen in fiscal year 2017.

**Table 3: Gross Deposits in Millions  
Fiscal Years 2014-2018**

<b>Taxes</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>
<b>Income Taxes</b>					
Individual Income Tax	\$4,098.74	\$4,331.88	\$4,487.43	\$4,597.46	\$4,889.49
Corporation Income Tax	\$551.26	\$578.47	\$524.33	\$554.03	\$566.48
Franchise Tax	\$42.92	\$46.95	\$52.04	\$53.80	\$46.71
<b>Total Income Taxes</b>	<b><u>\$4,692.92</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,957.30</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,063.80</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,205.29</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,502.68</u></b>
<b>Consumption Taxes</b>					
Sales Tax (1)	\$2,528.48	\$2,664.37	\$2,734.69	\$2,739.30	\$2,794.86
Use Tax	\$485.65	\$500.56	\$499.49	\$506.73	\$561.22
One-Time Fee for New Vehicle Registration	\$331.47	\$355.39	\$373.15	\$376.88	\$392.01
Fuel Taxes	\$473.46	\$536.74	\$726.31	\$791.65	\$726.94
Cigarette Tax	\$194.47	\$194.37	\$196.77	\$188.63	\$182.38
Tobacco Tax	\$28.77	\$29.26	\$31.04	\$32.41	\$30.32
<b>Total Consumption Taxes</b>	<b><u>\$4,042.30</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,280.69</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,561.45</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,635.60</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,687.73</u></b>
<b>Miscellaneous Taxes</b>					
Environmental Protection Charge (2)	\$21.24	\$21.47	\$21.45	\$17.52	\$0.00
Real Estate Transfer Tax	\$18.66	\$19.06	\$20.71	\$22.34	\$23.67
Hazardous Materials Permit Fee	\$0.28	\$0.29	\$0.33	\$0.22	\$0.27
Inheritance Tax	\$91.03	\$86.98	\$91.76	\$86.19	\$83.09
Insurance Premium Tax	\$105.53	\$109.63	\$119.67	\$114.81	\$121.87
Car Rental Tax and Vehicle Title Surcharge (3)	\$0.68	\$0.08	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.08
Miscellaneous Taxes	\$2.23	\$2.09	\$2.45	\$2.01	\$2.97
<b>Total Miscellaneous Taxes</b>	<b><u>\$239.65</u></b>	<b><u>\$239.60</u></b>	<b><u>\$256.47</u></b>	<b><u>\$243.19</u></b>	<b><u>\$231.95</u></b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b><u>\$8,974.87</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,477.59</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,881.72</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,084.08</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,422.36</u></b>

Notes: Gross deposits do not reflect any transfers or adjustments for returned checks. Deposits are presented on a cash basis.

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## **TAX COMPLIANCE AND REVENUE COLLECTION**

### **Collections**

There are two self-funding programs within the Department. First, the Department's Tax Gap program examines and audits tax returns and determines fraudulent and erroneous refund requests. The program identifies non-filers to put them in compliance with their tax liabilities and strives to identify and collect all taxes owed to the state and prevent the payment of erroneous refunds. Second, the Department's Centralized Collection Unit (CCU) collects delinquent tax debt and non-tax debt. The CCU provides collection services to the following State agencies: Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Support Recovery Unit, DHS Health & Wellness Premiums, DHS Medicaid Provider Overpayments, Department of Natural Resources, Iowa College Aid, and Iowa Department of Revenue.

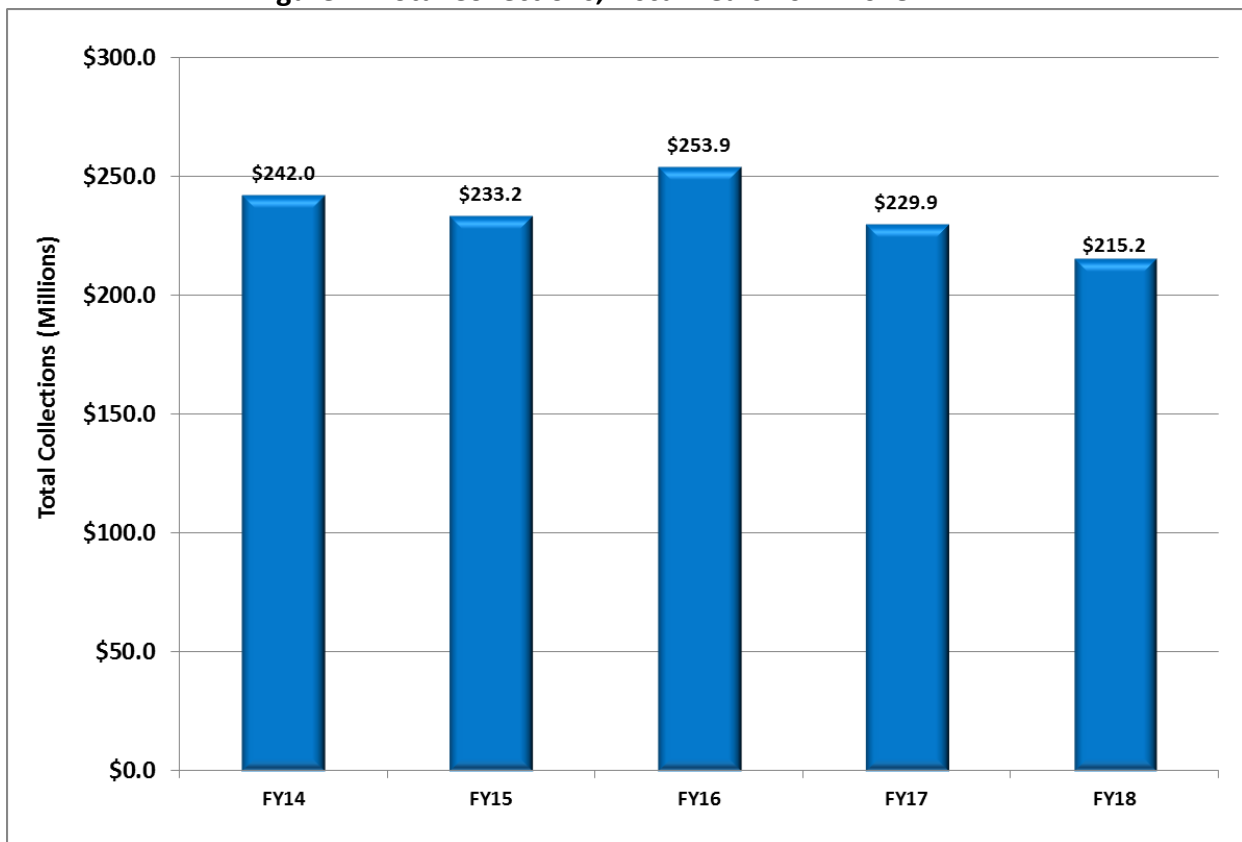
In fiscal year 2018, the Department's compliance and collections efforts resulted in \$215.2 million in revenues, down from \$229.9 million in fiscal year 2017.

- Part of this decrease reflects a change in how collections are reported. The Department has a compliance program identifying taxpayers who have not filed appropriate tax returns. In previous years, Department reports included subsequent taxes paid by individuals first identified through this program. In 2017, collections included \$7.2 million in subsequent revenue. In fiscal year 2018, the Department stopped reporting subsequent revenue from these taxpayers as collections.
- In fiscal year 2017, CCU collected \$5.6 million dollars for the Courts. In fiscal year 2018, all Court accounts were returned to the counties, thus there were no Court collections.



## TAX COMPLIANCE AND REVENUE COLLECTION

Figure 1: Total Collections, Fiscal Years 2014-2018



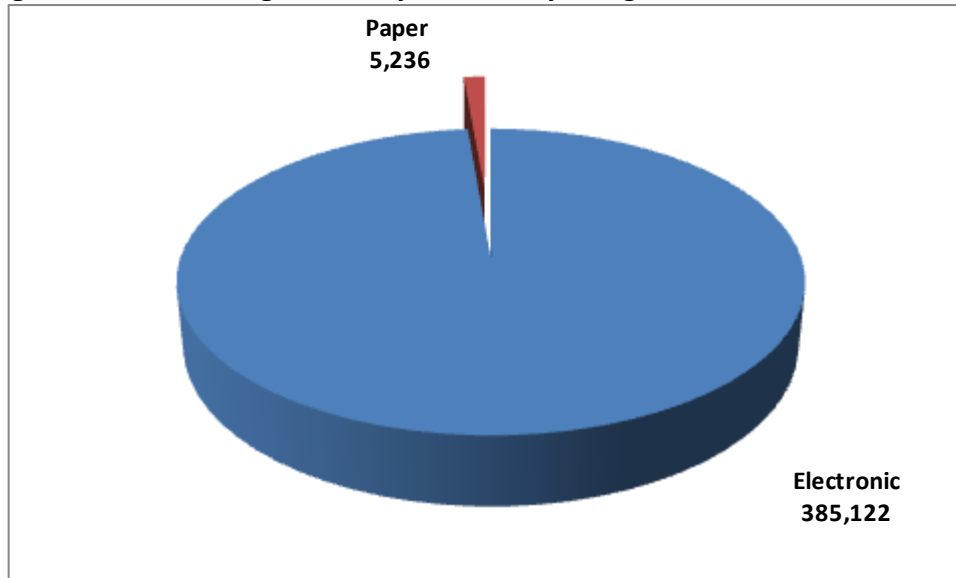
Note: Total Collections include tax payments resulting from billings, returns filed through the Special Events program, gambling collections, and non-tax collections, and reductions in refunds resulting from return examination, with bad checks subtracted. For FY14-FY17, collections also include subsequent revenue paid with returns filed by taxpayers identified through prior non-filer programs.

### Electronic Filing – Business Taxes

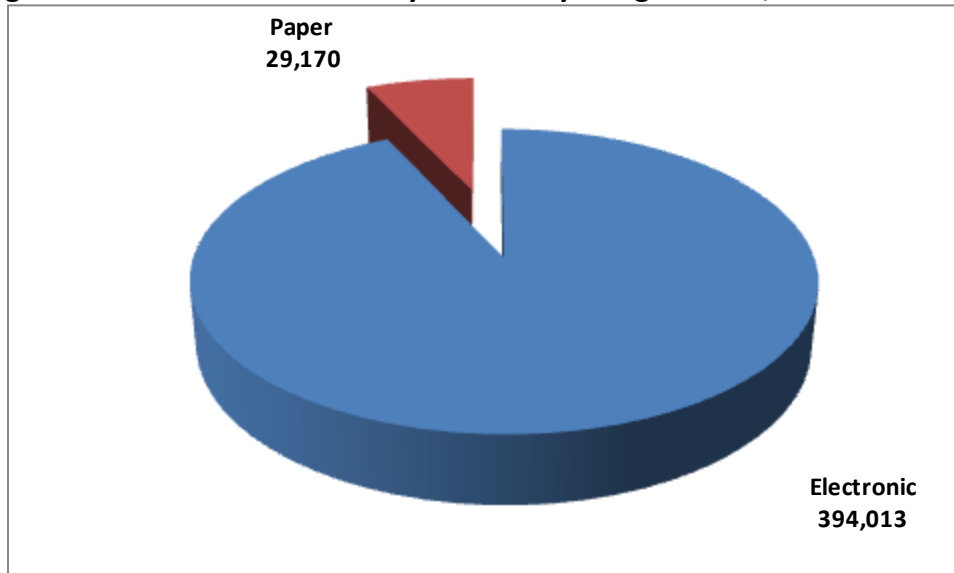
The Department continues to expand and encourage electronic filing of tax returns and tax payments for business taxes, including withholding taxes remitted by employers on behalf of employees and sales taxes remitted by retailers on behalf of consumers.

In fiscal year 2018, 99 percent of withholding tax returns (over 380,000) and 93 percent of sales and use tax returns (over 390,000) were filed using the Department's eFile & Pay system. These business filers paid more than 96 percent of funds owed to the State electronically, resulting in lower administrative costs and faster deposits.

**Figure 2: Withholding Quarterly Returns by Filing Method, Fiscal Year 2018**



**Figure 3: Sales and Use Quarterly Returns by Filing Method, Fiscal Year 2018**



Note: In prior reports, sales tax annual filers were not included in this calculation of returns filed by filing method. Beginning with this report, 22,285 annual returns, which are historically filed as paper returns, are included.

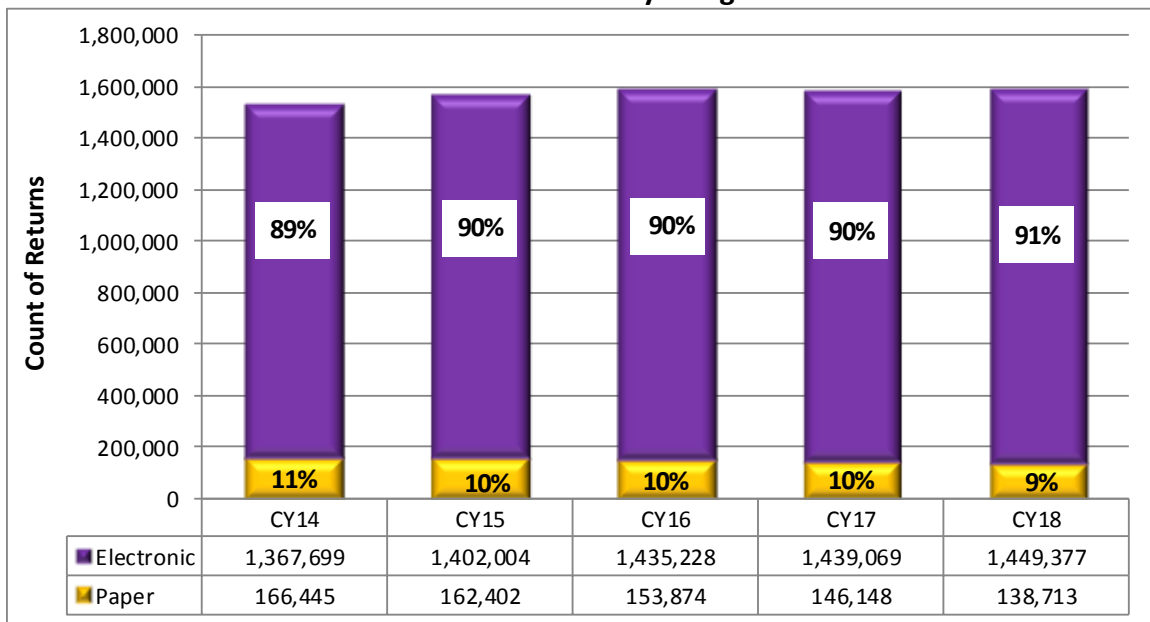
## TAX COMPLIANCE AND REVENUE COLLECTION

### Electronic Filing – Income Taxes

The Department encourages individuals, corporations, estates and trusts, and entities obligated to file informational returns to file those returns electronically.

The income tax type with the largest number of returns processed each year is individual income tax. The share of individual income tax returns filed electronically grew to 91 percent (1.45 million returns) in calendar year 2018 for tax year 2017 returns.

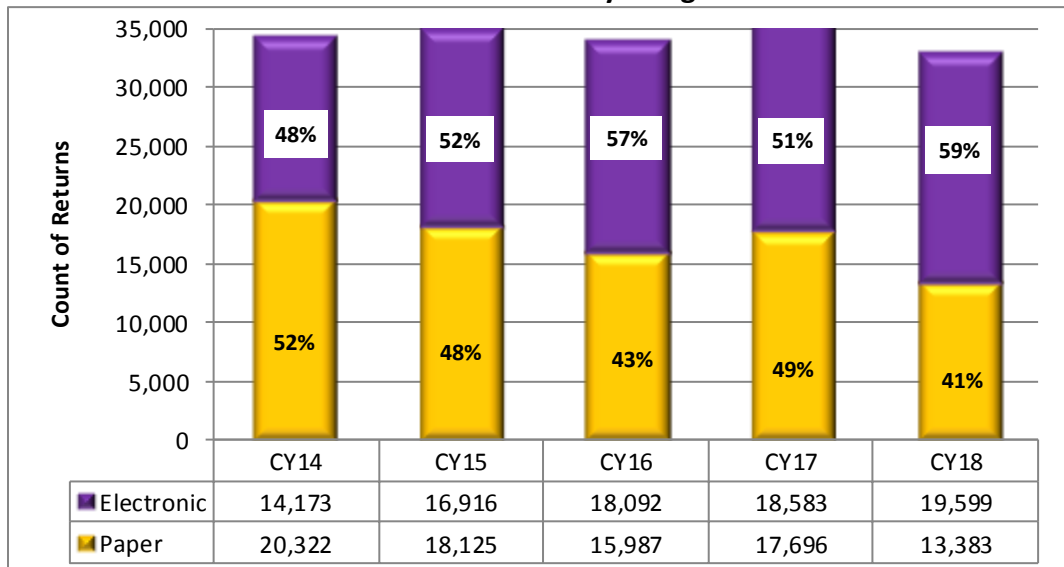
**Figure 4: Individual Income Tax Returns  
Count and Distribution by Filing Method**



Note: Includes only current tax year returns filed from January through October of the noted processing year.

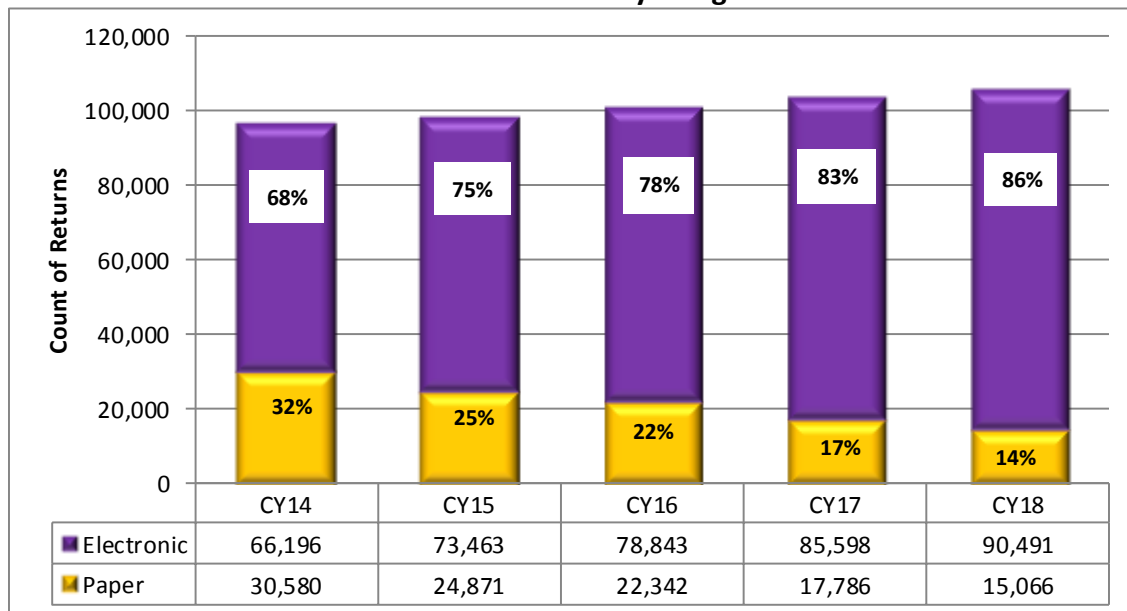
In the last three fiscal years, over 50 percent of the corporations filing returns have made use of the electronic filing method. Electronic filing for pass-through entities (i.e. partnerships, limited liability companies, and S corporations) continues to increase each year. In 2015, the Department added fiduciary tax, filed by estates and trusts, as an eligible tax type for electronic filing. In calendar year 2018, 15,721 fiduciary returns were filed electronically.

**Figure 5: Corporation Income Tax Returns  
Count and Distribution by Filing Method**



Note: Includes tax returns filed by C corporations processed January through October of the noted processing year as well as November and December of the prior year.

**Figure 6: Pass-Through Income Tax Returns  
Count and Distribution by Filing Method**



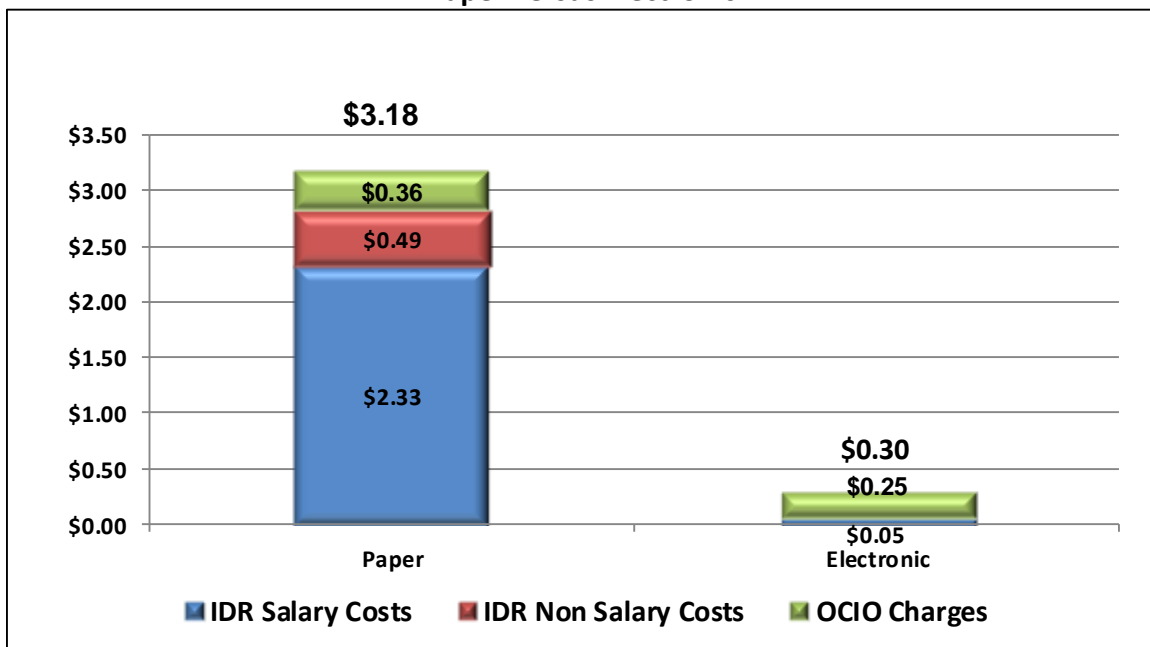
Note: Includes informational returns filed by S corporations, limited liability companies, and partnerships processed January through October of the noted processing year as well as November and December of the prior year. The tax liability associated with income is realized by individual owners. The count of processing year 2018 paper returns is preliminary.

## TAX COMPLIANCE AND REVENUE COLLECTION

### Average Cost to Process Individual Income Tax Returns

The Department encourages electronic filing because it reduces administrative costs. For fiscal year 2018, the estimated average cost of receiving and capturing data from a paper return was \$3.18 compared to only \$0.30 for an electronic return. The Department processed 185,181 paper individual income tax returns in fiscal year 2018 compared to 193,000 in fiscal year 2017. Counts include current year, prior year, and amended returns.

**Figure 7: Estimated Average Cost to Process Individual Income Tax Returns  
Paper versus Electronic**



Note: Costs incorporate expenses paid to the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to prepare Department databases and other technology systems for the filing season along with the Iowa Department of Revenue (IDR) direct costs.

## **TAX COMPLIANCE AND REVENUE COLLECTION**

### **Taxpayer Services**

Iowa taxpayers seek answers to their questions about taxes. Taxpayer service specialists are available by telephone, email, and in person. The Department is working to enhance the availability and quality of online resources to provide taxpayers access to information when convenient to them. As part of the Department's customer service and modernization goals, taxpayer education videos are available on the website to enhance self-service information. A total of 31,694 people viewed 20 general tax information videos and six videos regarding implementation of the Business Property Tax Credit. The Department delivered 11 business tax webinars in partnership with the Center of Business Growth and Innovation at the University of Northern Iowa and IASourceLink, which had 2,482 participants.

In addition, a total of 1,629 people followed the [Business Tax](#), [Individual Income Tax](#), and [Tax Professional](#) Twitter accounts, including 661 new followers. The Department sent a total of 501 tweets which were received and shared with 173,573 people through Twitter followers. In December 2013, the Department launched a [Facebook page](#). In fiscal year 2018, 220 posts were made and were viewed by 50,859 people. Additionally, the Department reached out to taxpayers through a series of GovDelivery communications covering a wide variety of tax topics, with subscribers totaling 13,537 in 2018.

#### **To Receive Assistance From a Tax Specialist:**

email: [idr@iowa.gov](mailto:idr@iowa.gov)

Telephone: 515-281-3114 or 800-367-3388

Mail: Iowa Department of Revenue

P O Box 10457

Des Moines, Iowa 50306-0457

#### **To Find Online Services and Forms:**

<https://tax.iowa.gov>

<https://tax.iowa.gov/twitter>

<https://www.facebook.com/iowadepartmentofrevenue>

#### **Current and Past Year Services and Tax Forms:**

Individual Income Tax eFile Information

Where's My Refund

Apply for a Permit

eFile & Pay for Business Taxes

Pay Debt Online

Visit the [Iowa Tax Research Library](#) for a searchable repository of Department rulings and court cases.

## **RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

### **Research and Statistical Reports**

The Department provides tax policy analysis, fiscal impact estimation, economic research, and statistical analysis to help customers, stakeholders, and policymakers make informed decisions.

#### **Research Reports:**

- Iowa Leading Indicators Index Monthly Report
- Contingent Liabilities Report
- Tax Expenditure Studies
- Legislative Summaries
- Tax Credits User's Manual
- Tax Credit Evaluation Studies

#### **Statistical Reports:**

- Sales and Use Tax Quarterly and Annual Reports
- Individual Income Tax Annual Statistical Report
- Retailers Fuel Gallons Annual Report
- Fuel Tax Monthly Report

These reports are available on the [Department's website](#).

The Department also provides data through Iowa's open data portal. Posted data sets include those required by statute and other data for which the Department often receives requests.

#### **Data Sets:**

- Local Option Sales Tax Receipts by Month and Location
- Hotel/Motel Tax Collected by Jurisdiction and Quarter
- Monthly State Tax Receipts and Refunds
- Quarterly Retail Taxable Sales by County for 12 Business Groups
- Quarterly Retail Taxable Sales by County and City
- Top 20 Sales and Use Tax Expenditures
- Retail Sales Tax Registration Permit List
- Taxable Gallons of Fuel by Major Fuel Type
- Iowa Motor Fuel Sales by County and Year

These data sets are available through [Iowa's open data portal](#).

## RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

### Tax Credit Tracking and Analysis Program

The Department has been assigned the responsibility of awarding several income tax credits along with completing all requested tax credit transfers and tracking claims. Of the \$251.1 million in total tax credits awarded by various State agencies in fiscal year 2018, \$10.9 million were awarded under the four tax credit programs administered by the Department. See Table 1 in the [Contingent Liabilities Report](#) for details about the amounts awarded under other tax credit programs. Tax credit transfers in fiscal year 2018 totaled \$117.3 million.

**Table 4: Tax Credits Awarded and Transferred by Iowa Department of Revenue  
Fiscal Year 2018**

<b>Tax Credit Program</b>	<b>Awarded Amount</b>
Farm to Food Donation Tax Credit	\$11,083
Renewable Energy Tax Credit	\$4,327,762
Solar Energy System Tax Credit	\$4,987,715
Wind Energy Production Tax Credit	\$1,601,299
Total State Tax Credit Awards by IDR	\$10,927,859
Total State Tax Credit Awards	\$250,901,380
Total Tax Credit Transfers	\$117,291,361

Source: Tax Credit Award, Claim, & Transfer Administration System



## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE**

### **Property Tax**

The Department provides assistance to local governments throughout Iowa by administering fair and equitable assessments and programs for property tax relief. The Property Tax Division:

- Administers credits and exemptions for property owners
- Trains, educates, and certifies the assessment community
- Equalizes assessed property values through ratio studies and model analysis processed every second year
- Provides for central assessments of utilities, telecommunication companies, pipelines, and railroads
- Provides replacement tax calculations for gas and electrical companies annually
- Calculates statewide property tax
- Annually determines statewide agricultural productivity values
- Provides information pertaining to assessed valuations to other governmental agencies
- Collaborates with county-level government to implement technology solutions
- Responds to taxpayer inquiries by reviewing assessment practices for statutory compliance
- Collaborates with key stakeholders to make recommendations on statewide property tax issues
- Distributes SAVE, LOST, and Hotel/Motel tax payments and property tax relief funds to school districts and local jurisdictions
- Distributes funds under the Flood Mitigation, LOST tax increment financing, Reinvestment Districts programs, and Replacement Claims programs
- Calculates Business Property Tax Credit

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

### Property Tax Relief and Local Option Taxes

The Department administers numerous property tax credits that supplement revenues collected by local governments. The Department also collects and distributes local option taxes to local governments and school districts.

**Table 5: Distribution of Funds to Local Governments for Fiscal Year 2018**

<b>Property Tax Relief Program</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Homestead Tax Credit	Adopted to encourage home ownership through property tax relief. Current credit is equal to the actual tax levy on the first \$4,850 of actual value.	\$135,071,538
Elderly and Disabled Tax Credit/Rent Reimbursement	Provides property tax relief to low-income elderly and disabled homeowners or rent relief to low-income elderly and disabled renters.	\$24,573,377
Mobile Home Reduced Tax Rate	Established in conjunction with the Elderly and Disabled Property Tax Credit. Provides tax reduction to homeowners of mobile and manufactured homes.	\$95,080
Special Assessment Tax Credit	Established in conjunction with the Elderly and Disabled Property Tax Credit. Provides 100% tax reduction to qualified homeowners who are required to pay special assessments.	\$21,571
Business Property Tax Credit	Established by 2013 Property Tax Reform. Provides a tax credit for commercial, industrial, and railroad property taxes to qualified property units.	\$125,451,103
Replacement Claim	Established by 2013 Property Tax Reform. This claim offsets a reduction in the rollback for commercial and industrial properties.	\$152,100,150
Agricultural Land Tax Credit	Credit established to partially offset the school tax burden borne by agricultural real estate. Current law allows a credit for any general school fund tax in excess of \$5.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Land used for agricultural or horticultural purposes in tracts of 10 acres or more is eligible.	\$29,100,000
Family Farm Tax Credit	Credit established to partially offset the school tax burden borne by agricultural real estate. Current law allows a credit for any general school fund tax in excess of \$5.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The owner or owner's relatives must be actively engaged in farming the land and the land must be used for agricultural or horticultural purposes.	\$10,000,000
Military Service Property Tax Exemption	Reduces the taxable value of property for military veterans. The amount of the exemption varies.	\$1,961,234

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

## Property Tax Relief and Local Option Taxes

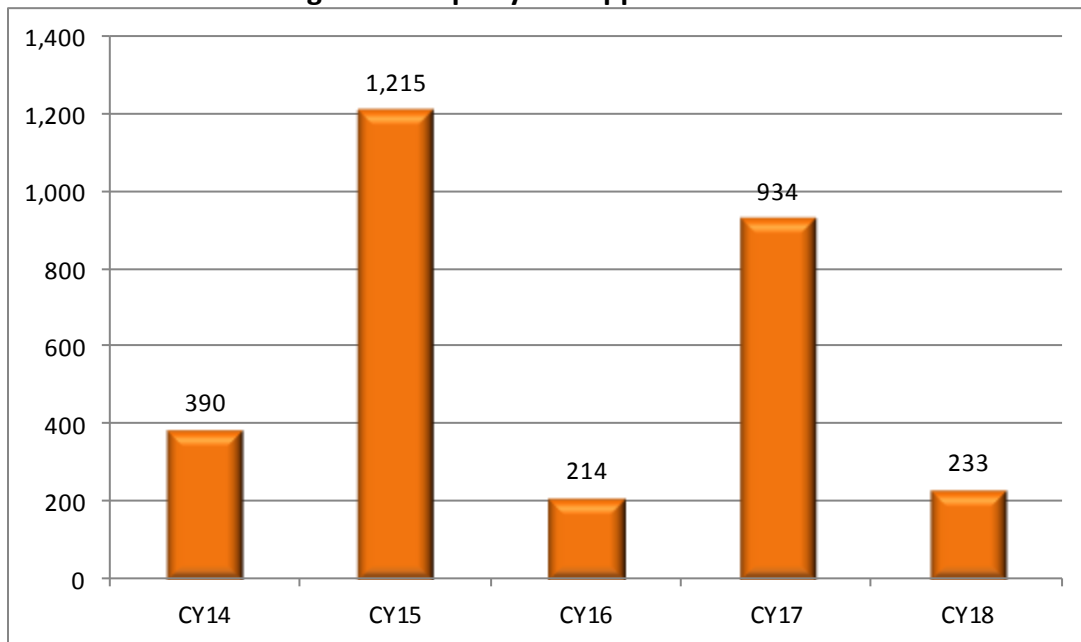
**Table 5 (continued): Distribution of Funds to Local Governments for Fiscal Year 2018**

<b>Local Option Tax</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Local Option Sales Tax (LOST)	Sales tax up to 1% imposed by counties either countywide or in incorporated areas or unincorporated areas. Imposed on sales and services taxed under State sales tax provisions.	\$344,948,467
Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Tax (SAVE)	Portion of the statewide 1% sales and use tax distributed to school districts on a per pupil basis.	\$471,365,677
Property Tax Equity and Relief (PTER)	Portion of the statewide 1% sales and use tax dedicated for property tax relief.	\$10,111,019
Hotel/Motel Tax	Tax up to 7% imposed by cities on the gross receipts from the rental of hotel or motel rooms for 31 consecutive days or less.	\$57,530,990
<b>Sales Tax Increment Program</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Flood Mitigation	Allows local governments to fund flood mitigation projects in part through receiving a portion of the growth in state retail sales tax in their jurisdiction	\$25,545,865
Urban Renewal	Allows local governments to fund urban renewal projects in part through receiving the growth in local option sales tax in their jurisdiction	\$191,386
Reinvestment Districts	Allows local governments to fund development projects in part through receiving a portion of the growth in state retail sales and lodging taxes within their reinvestment district	\$320,246

## PROPERTY ASSESSMENT APPEAL BOARD

The State of Iowa Property Assessment Appeal Board (PAAB) is a State board created for the purpose of establishing a consistent, fair, and equitable property assessment appeal process. PAAB conducts administrative hearings with the statutory authority to review any final decision, finding, ruling, determination, or order of a local board of review relating to protests of an assessment, valuation, or application of an equalization order. The number of appeals received is typically higher in odd calendar years due to the property tax reassessment cycle.

**Figure 8: Property Tax Appeals Received**



PAAB consists of three members appointed to staggered six-year terms by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate. The Governor appoints one of the members as chairperson to a two-year term, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Two members of the board shall be certified real property appraisers and one member shall be an attorney practicing in the area of state and local taxation or property tax appraisals.

### **Board Membership, Qualification, and Term**

Stewart Iverson, Chair	Tax Professional	April 30, 2023
Karen Oberman	Appraiser	April 30, 2021
Camille Valley	Attorney	April 30, 2019